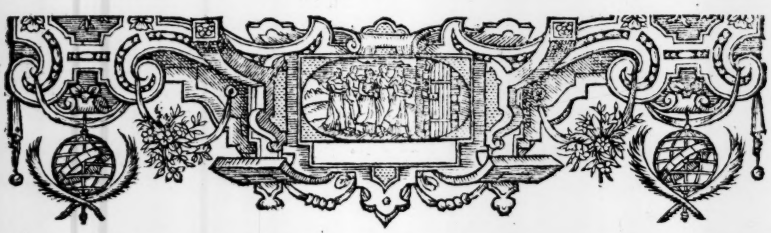
1601 2.

LONDON,
Printed by *H.L.* for *Matthew Lownes*.



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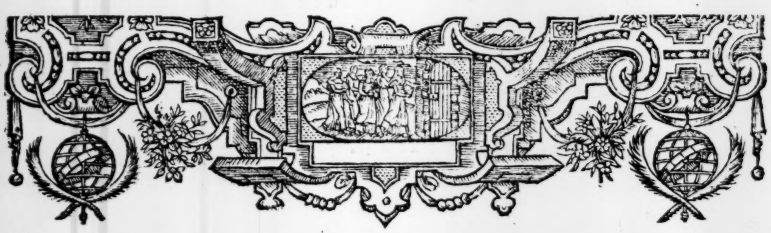

PROSOPOPOIA.

OR

MOTHER HUBBERDS TALE.

By *Edm. Sp.*

Dedicated to the right Honourable, the Lady *Compton* and *Mountegle.*

AT LONDON,
Printed by *H. L.* for *Mathew Lownes.*
Anno Dom. 1613.

MYDDLESEX
PARTE OF HARTFORD
PARTE OF SHYRE
PARTE OF BVC
KINGHAM
PARTE OF ESSEX
ENFEILDE CHACE
FOREST OF WALTHAM
SVRREY
Part of Kente
Part of Berke
Caracters distinguishing the difference of places
Market townes
Parishes
Hamletes or villages
Howses & Palaces of Quen Eli
Howses of Nobilitie
Howses of Knightes, Gent. &c.
Castles & fortes
Monasteries or religious howses
Bushops Seas
Hospitales
Places where battells have bene
Decayde places
Lodges in forestes chases &c.
Myllos
Ioannes Norden Angl. descripsit 1593

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE, the Lady *Compton* and *Mountegle*.

MOST faire and vertuous Lady; hauing often ſought opportunitie by ſome good meanes to make knowen to your Ladiſhip, the humble affection and faithfull duetie, which I haue alwaies profeſſed, and am bound to beare to that Houſe, from whence ye ſpring, I haue at length found occaſion to remember the ſame, by making a ſimple preſent to you of theſe my idle labors; which hauing long ſithens compoſed in the raw conceit of my youth, I lately amongſt other papers lighted vpon, and was by others, which liked the ſame, moued to ſet them forth. Simple is the deuice, and the compoſition meane, yet carrieth ſome delight, euen the rather, becauſe of the ſimplicitie and meanneſſe thus perſonated. The ſame I beſeech your Ladiſhip take in good part, as a pledge of that profeſsion vvhich I haue made to you; and keepe vvith you, vntill vvith ſome other more worthy labour, I doe redeeme it out of your hands, and diſcharge my vtmoſt duety. Till then, wiſhing your Ladiſhip all increaſe of honour and happineſſe, I humbly take leaue.

Your La: euer

humbly;

Ed: Sp.

MYDDLESEX
PARTE OF HARTFORD
PARTE OF SHYRE
PARTE OF ESSEX
PARTE OF BVC
KINGHAM
SVRREY
Part of Kente
Part of Berke
Windesore
ENFEILDE CHACE
FOREST OF WALTHAM
LONDON
Caracters distinguishing the difference of places
Market townes
Parishes
Hamletes or villages
Howses & Palaces of Quen Eli
Howses of Nobilitie
Howses of Knightes, Gent. &c.
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Decayde places
Lodges in forestes chases &c.
Myllos
Ioannes Norden Angl. descripsit 1593

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE, the Lady *Compton* and *Mountegle*.

MOST faire and vertuous Lady; hauing often ſought opportunitie by ſome good meanes to make knowen to your Ladiſhip, the humble affection and faithfull duetie, which I haue alwaies profeſſed, and am bound to beare to that Houſe, from which [illegible] at length found occaſion to remember [illegible] by making a ſimple preſent to you of their my labours; which hauing long ſithens compoſed in the raw conceit of my youth, I lately amongſt other papers lighted vpon, and was by others, which liked the ſame, moued to ſet them forth. Simple is the deuice, and the compoſition meane, yet carrieth ſome delight, euen the rather, becauſe of the ſimplicitie and meanneſſe thus perſonated. The ſame I beſeech your Ladiſhip take in good part, as a pledge of that profeſsion vvhich I haue made to you; and keepe vvith you, vntill vvith ſome other more worthy labour, I doe redeeme it out of your hands, and diſcharge my vtmoſt duety. Till then, wiſhing your Ladiſhip all increaſe of honour and happineſſe, I humbly take leaue.

Your La: euer

humbly;

Ed: Sp.

PROSOPOPOIA:

OR

Mother Hubberds Tale.

IT was the month, in which the righteous Maide,
That for disdaine of sinfull worlds vpbraide,
Fled back to heauen, whence she was first conceiued,
Into her siluer bowre the Sunne receiued;
And the hot *Syrian* dog on him awayting,
After the chafed Lions cruell bayting,
Corrupted had th'ayre with his noysome breath,
And pour'd on th'earth plague, pestilence, and death.
Emongst the rest, a wicked maladie
Raign'd emongst men, that many did to die,
Depriu'd of sense and ordinary reason;
That it to Leaches seemed strange and geason.
My fortune was mongst many other moe,
To be partaker of their common woe;
And my weake bodie set on fire with griefe,
Was robd of rest, and naturall reliefe.
In this ill plight, there came to visite mee
Some friends, who sorry my sad case to see,
Began to comfort me in chearefull wise,
And meanes of gladsome solace to deuise.
But seeing kindly sleepe refuse to doe
His office, and my feeble eyes forgoe,
They sought my troubled sense how to deceaue
VVith talke, that might vnquiet fancies reaue;
And sitting all on seats about me round,
VVith pleasant tales (fit for that idle stound)
They cast in course to waste the wearie howres:
Some tolde of Ladies, and their Paramoures;
Some of braue Knights, and their renowned Squires;
Some of the Faeries and their strange attires;
And some of Giants, hard to be believed,
That the delight thereof me much relieued.
Amongst the rest, a good old woman was,
Hight Mother *Hubberd*, who did far surpass
The rest in honest mirth, that seem'd her well;
She when her turne was come her tale to tell,
Told of a strange adventure, that betided
Betwixt the Foxe and th'Ape by him misguided;
The which for that my sense it greatly pleased,
All were my spirit heauie and diseased,
Ile write in termes, as shee the same did say,
So well as I her words remember may.
No Muses ayde me needs heere-to to call;
Base is the style, and matter meane withall.

¶ Whylome (said she) before the world was ciuill,
The Foxe and th'Ape disliking of their euill
And hard estate, determined to seeke
There fortunes farre abroad, lyeke with his lyeke:
For both were crafty and vnhappy witted;
Two fellowes might no where be better fitted.
The Foxe, that first this cause of griefe did finde,
Gan first thus plain his case with words vnkinde.
Neighbour Ape, and my Gossip eke beside
(Both two sure bands in friendship to be tide)
To whom may I more trustily complaine
The euill plight, that doth me sore constraine,
And hope thereof to finde due remedy?
Heare then my paine and inward agonie.
Thus many yeeres I now haue spent and worne,
In meane regard, and basest fortunes scorne,
Dooing my Countrey seruice as I might,
No lesse I dare say than the proudest wight;
And still I hoped to be vp aduaunced,
For my good parts; but still it hath mischaunced.
Now therefore that no lenger hope I see,
But froward fortune still to followe mee,
And losels lifted high, where I did looke,
I meane to turne the next leafe of the booke:
Yet ere that any way I doe betake,
I meane my Gossip priuy first to make.

Ah! my deare Gossip (answer'd then the Ape)
Deeply doe your sad words my wits awhape,
Both for because your griefe doth great appeare,
And eke because my selfe am touched neare;
For I likewise haue wasted much good time,
Still wayting to preferment vp to clime,
Whil'st others alwaies haue before me stept,
And from my beard the fat away haue swept;
That now vnto despaire I gin to growe,
And meane for better winde about to throwe.
Therefore to me, my trustie friend, aread
Thy counsell: Two is better then one head.

Certes (said he) I meane me to disguize
In some strange habit, after vncouth wize,
Or like a Pilgrim, or a Lymiter,
Or like a Gipsen, or a Iuggeler,
And so to wander to the worldes end,
To seeke my fortune, where I may it mend:
For worse than that I haue, I cannot meet.
Wide is the world I wote, and euery street
Is full of fortunes, and adventures strange,
Continually subiect vnto change.
Say my faire brother now, if this deuice
Doe like you, or may you to like ennee.

Surely (said th'Ape) it likes me wondrous well;
And would ye not poore fellowship expell,
My selfe would offer you t'accompany
In this adventures chauncefull ieopardie.
For to wexe olde at home in idlenesse,
Is disaduentrous, and quite fortunelesse:

Abroad where change is, good may gotten bee.
The Foxe was glad, and quickly did agree:
So both resolu'd the morrow next ensuing,
So soone as day appear'd to peoples viewing,
On their intended iourney to proceed;
And over night, what-so thereto did need,
Each did prepare in readinesse to bee.
The morrow next, so soone as one might see
Light out of heauens windowes forth to looke,
Both their habiliments vnto them tooke,
And put themselues (a Gods name) on their way:
VVhen-as the Ape beginning well to wey
This hard aduenture, thus began t'aduise;
Now read Sir Reynold, as ye be right wise,
VVhat course ye weene is best for vs to take,
That for our selues we may a liuing make.
VVhether shall we professe some trade or skill?
Or shall we vary our deuice at will,
Euen as new occasion appeares?
Or shall wee tie our selues for certaine yeeres,
To any seruice, or to any place?
For it behoues ere that into the race
We enter, to resolue first herevpon.
Now surely brother (said the Foxe anon)
Ye haue this matter motioned in season:
For euery thing that is begun with reason
VVill come by ready meanes vnto his end:
But things miscounselled must needs miswend.
Thus therefore I aduise vpon the case,
That not to any certaine trade or place,
Nor any man we should our selues apply;
For, why should he that is at liberty
Make himselfe bond? Sith then we are free borne,
Let vs all seruile base subiection scorne;
And as we be sonnes of the world so wide,
Let vs our fathers heritage deuide,
And challenge to our selues our portions dew
Of all the patrimony, which a few
Now hold in hugger mugger in their hand,
And all the rest doe rob of good and land.
For now a few haue all, and all haue nought,
Yet all be brethren ylike dearely bought:
There is no right in this partition,
Ne was it so by institution
Ordained first, ne by the law of Nature,
But that she gaue like blessing to each creature
As well of worldly liuelode as of life,
That there might be no difference nor strife,
Nor ought call'd mine or thine: thrice happy then
Was the condition of mortall men.
That was the golden age of *Saturne* old,
But this might better be the world of gold:
For, without gold now nothing will be got.
Therefore (if please you) this shall be our plot,
We will not be of any occupation,
Let such vile vassalls borne to base vocation
Drudge in the world, and for their liuing droyle
Which haue no wit to liue without toyle.
But we will walke about the world at pleasure,
Like two free men, and make our ease a treasure.
Free men some beggers call; but they be free,
And they which call them so more beggers bee:
For they doe swinke and sweat to feed the other,
Who liue like Lords of that which they doe gather,
And yet doe neuer thanke them for the same,
But as their due by Nature doe it clame.
Such will we fashion both our selues to bee,
Lords of the world, and so will wander free
VVhere so vs listeth, vncontroll'd of any:
Hard is our hap, if we (emongst so many)
Light not on some that may our state amend;
Sildome but some good commeth ere the end.
VVell seem'd the Ape to like this ordinaunce:
Yet well considering of the circumstaunce,
As pausing in great doubt a while he staid,
And afterwards with graue aduisement said;
I cannot my liefe brother like but well
The purpose of the complot which ye tell:
For well I wot (compar'd to all the rest
Of each degree) that Beggers life is best:
And they that thinke themselues the best of all,
Oft-times to begging are content to fall.
But this I wote withall, that we shall ronne
Into great danger, like to be vndonne,
Wildly to wander thus in the worlds eye,
VVithout Pasport or good warrantie,
For feare least we like rogues should be reputed,
And for eare-marked beasts abroad be bruted:
Therefore I read, that we our counsells call,
How to preuent this mischiefe ere it fall,
And how we may with most securitie,
Beg amongst those that beggers doe defie.
Right well, deare Gossip, ye aduised haue,
(Said then the Foxe) but I this doubt will saue;
For ere we farther passe, I will deuise
A Pasport for vs both in fittest wize,
And by the names of Souldiers vs protect;
That now is thought a ciuile begging sect.
Be you the Souldier, for you likest are
For manly semblance, and small skill in warre:
I will but waite on you, and as occasion
Falls out, my selfe fit for the same will fashion.
The Pasport ended, both they forward went,
The Ape clad Souldier-like, fit for th'intent,
In a blew iacket with a crosse of red,
And many slits, as if that he had shed
Much blood through many wounds therein receaued,
Which had the vse of his right arme bereaued;
Vpon his head an old Scotch cap he wore,
With a plume feather all to peeces tore:
His breeches were made after the new cut,
Al Portugese, loose like an empty gut;
And his hose broken high aboue the heeling,
And his shooes beaten out with traueling.
But neither sword nor dagger he did beare,
Seemes that no foes reuengement he did feare;
In stead of them a handsome bat he held,
On which he leaned, as one farre in eld.
Shame light on him, that through so false illusion,
Doth turne the name of Souldiers to abusion,

And

And that which is the nobleſt myſterie,
Brings to reproach and common infamie.
Long they thus trauailed, yet neuer met
Aduenture, which might them a working ſet:
Yet many waies they ſought, and many tryed;
Yet for their purpoſes none fit eſpyed.
At laſt, they chaunc't to meet vpon the way,
A ſimple husbandman in garments gray;
Yet though his veſture were but meane and bace,
A good yeoman he was of honeſt place,
And more for thrift did care then for gay clothing:
Gay without good, is good harts greateſt lothing.
The Foxe him ſpying, bad the Ape him dight
To play his part, for loe he was in ſight
That (if he err'd not) ſhould them entertaine,
And yeeld them timely profit for their paine.
Eftſoones the Ape him ſelfe gan to vpreare,
And on his ſhoulders high his bat to beare,
As if good ſeruice he were fit to doe;
But little thrift for him he did it to:
And ſtoutly forward he his ſteps did ſtraine,
That like a handſome ſwaine it him became.
When-as they nigh approached, that good man
Seeing them wander looſely, firſt began
T'enquire of cuſtome, what and whence they were?
To whom the Ape, I ama Souldiere,
That late in warres haue ſpent my deareſt blood,
And in long ſeruice loſt both limbs and good,
And now conſtrain'd that trade to ouer-giue,
I driuen am to ſeeke ſome meanes to liue:
Which might it you in pitty pleaſe t'afford,
I would be ready both in deed and word,
To doe you faithfull ſeruice all my daies.
This yron world (that ſame he weeping ſaies)
Brings downe the ſtoureſt harts to loweſt ſtate:
For miſery doth braueſt minds abate,
And makes them ſeeke for that they wont to ſcorne,
Of fortune and of hope at once forlorne.
The honeſt man, that heard him thus complaine,
VVas grieu'd, as he had felt part of his paine;
And well diſpos'd, him ſome reliefe to ſhowe,
Askt if in husbandry he ought did knowe,
To plough, to plant, to reap, to rake, to ſowe,
To hedge, to ditch, to threſh, to thatch, to mowe;
Or to what labour elſe he was prepar'd?
For husbands life is labourous and hard.
When-as the Ape him heard ſo much to talke
Of labour, that did from his liking balke,
He would haue ſlipt the coller handſomly
And to him ſaid; Good Sir, full glad am I,
To take what paines may any liuing wight:
But my late maimed limbs lack wonted might
To doe their kindly ſeruices, as needeth:
Scarce this right hand the mouth with diet feedeth,
So that it may no painfull worke endure,
Ne to ſtrong labour can it ſelfe enure.
But if that any other place you haue,
Which asks ſmall paines, but thriftineſſe to ſaue,
Or care to ouer-looke, or truſt to gather,
Ye may me truſt as your owne ghoſtly father.

VVith that, the husbandman gan him avize,
That it for him was fitteſt exerciſe
Cattell to keep, or grounds to over-ſee;
And asked him if he could willing bee
To keep his ſheepe, or to attend his ſwine,
Or watch his mares, or take his charge of kine?
Gladly (ſaid he) what euer ſuch like paine
Ye put on me, I will the ſame ſuſtaine:
But gladlieſt I of your fleecie ſheepe
(Might it you pleaſe) would take on mee the keepe.
For ere that vnto armes I me betooke,
Vnto my Fathers ſheepe I vs'd to looke,
That yet the skill thereof I haue not loſte:
There-to right well this Curdog by my coſte
(Meaning the Foxe) will ſerue, my ſheepe to gather,
And driue to follow after their Belwether.
The Husbandman was meanely well content,
Triall to make of his endeuourment,
And home him leading, lent to him the charge
Of all his flock, with libertie full large,
Giuing account of th'annuall increace
Both of their Lambs, and of their woolly fleece.
Thus is this Ape become a ſhepheard ſwaine,
And the falſe Fox, his dog (God giue them paine)
For, ere the yeere haue halfe his courſe out-run,
And doe returne from whence it firſt begun,
They ſhall him make an ill account of thrift.
Now, when-as Time flying with wings ſwift,
Expired had the terme, that theſe two lauds
Should render vp a reckning of their trauels
Vnto their maſter, which it of them ſought,
Exceedingly they troubled were in thought,
Ne wiſt what anſwer vnto him to frame,
Ne how to ſcape great puniſhment, or ſhame,
For their falſe treaſon and vile theeuerie.
For, not a lambe of all their flocks ſupply
Had they to ſhew: but euer as they bred,
They ſlew them, and vpon their fleſhes fed:
For that diſguiſed dog lov'd blood to ſpill,
And drew the wicked ſhepheard to his will.
So twixt them both they not a lambkin left,
And when lambes tayl'd, the old ſheepes liues they reft;
That how t'acquite themſelues vnto their Lord,
They were in doubt, and flatly ſet abord.
The Foxe then counſell'd th'Ape, for to require
Reſpite till morrow, t'anſwer his deſire:
For times delay new hope of help ſtill breedes.
The goodman granted, doubting nought their deeds,
And bad, next day that all ſhould ready be.
But they more ſubtill meaning had then he:
For the next morrowes meed they cloſely ment,
For feare of afterclaps for to prevent.
And that ſame euening, when all ſhrowded were
In careleſſe ſleepe, they without care or feare,
Cruelly fell vpon their flock in folde,
And of them ſlew at pleaſure what they wolde:
Of which, when as they feaſted had their fill,
For a full complement of all their ill,
They ſtole away, and tooke their haſtie flight,
Carried in clowdes of all-concealing night.

So was the husbandman left to his losse,
And they vnto their fortunes change to tosse.
After which sort they wandered long while,
Abusing many through their cloaked guile;
That at the last they gan to be descried
Of euery one, and all their sleights espied.
So as their begging now them failed quite;
For none would giue, but all men would them wyte:
Yet would they take no paines to get their liuing,
But seeke some other way to gaine by giuing,
Much like to begging, but much better named;
For many beg, which are thereof ashamed.
And now the Foxe had gotten him a gowne,
And th'Ape a cassocke side-long hanging downe;
For they their occupation meant to change,
And now in other state abroad to range:
For, since their souldiers Pas no better spedd,
They forg'd another, as for Clerks, booke-redd.
VVho passing forth, as their adventures fell,
Through many haps, which needs not here to tell;
At length, chaunc'twith a formall Priest to meete,
VVhom they in ciuill manner first did greete,
And after askt an almes for Gods deare loue.
The man straight-way his choler vp did moue,
And with reproachfull tearmes gan them reuile,
For following that trade so base and vile;
And askt what Licence, or what Pas they had?
Ah (said the Ape, as sighing wondrous sad)
It's an hard case, when men of good deseruing
Must either driuen be perforce to steruing,
Or asked for their Pas by euery squib, *impertinent*
That list at will them to reuile or snib:
And yet (God wote) small oddes I often see
Twixt them that aske, and them that asked bee.
Natheless, because you shall not vs misdeeme,
But that we are as honest as we seeme,
Yee shall our Pasport at your pleasure see,
And then ye will (I hope) well mooued bee.
Which when the Priest beheld, he view'd it nere,
As if therein some Text he studying were;
But little else (God wote) could thereof skill:
For, read he could not Euidence, nor Will,
Ne tell a written word, ne write a letter,
Ne make one title worse, ne make one better:
Of such deepe learning little had he needs,
Ne yet of Latine, ne of Greeke, that breede
Doubts mongst Diuines, and difference of Texts,
From whence arise diuersitie of Sects,
And hatefull heresies of God abhorr'd:
But this good Sir did follow the plaine Word,
Ne medled with their controuersies vaine, *more*
All his care was, his seruice well to saine,
And to read Homelies on holidayes,
VVhen that was done, he might attend his playes;
An easie life, and fit high God to please.
He, hauing ouer-lookt their Pas at ease,
Gan at the length them to rebuke againe,
That no good trade of life did entertaine,
But lost their time in wandring loose abroad,
Seeing the world, in which they bootlesse boad;
Had waies enow for all therein to liue;
Such grace did God vnto his creatures giue.
Said then the Fox; Who hath the world not tride,
From the right way full eath may wander wide.
VVe are but Nouices, new come abroad,
VVe haue not yet the tract of any troad,
Nor on vs taken any state of life,
But ready are of any to make priefe. (proued,
Therefore, might please you, which the world haue
Vs to aduise, which forth but lately moued,
Of some good course, that we might vndertake:
Ye shall for euer vs your bondmen make.
The Priest gan wexe halfe proud to be so praide,
And thereby willing to affoord them ayde;
It seemes (said he) right well that ye be Clerks,
Both by your witty words, and by your werkes.
Is not that name enough to make a liuing
To him that hath a whit of Natures giuing?
How many honest men see yee arize
Daily thereby, and growe to goodly prize?
To Deanes, to Archdeacons, to Commissaries,
To Lords, to Principalls, to Prebendaries;
Although Prelates, worthy rule to beare,
Who euer them envie: yet spight bites neare.
Why should ye doubt then, but that ye likewise
Might vnto some of those in time arise?
In the meane time to liue in good estate,
Louing that loue, and hating those that hate;
Beeing some honest Curate, or some Vicker,
Content with little in condition, sicker. *sure*
Ah! but (said th'Ape) the charge is wondrous great,
To feede mens soules, and hath an heauy threat.
To feed mens soules (quoth he) is not in man:
For, they must feed themselues, doe what we can.
We are but charg'd to lay the meat before:
Eate they that list, we need to doe no more.
But God it is that feeds them with his grace,
The bread of life pour'd downe from heauenly place.
Therefore said he, that with the budding rod
Did rule the Iewes, *All shall be taught of God.*
That same hath Iesus Christ now to him raught,
By whom the flock is rightly fed and taught:
He is the Shepheard, and the Priest is hee;
We but his shepheard swaines ordain'd to bee.
Therefore heere-with doe not your selfe dismay;
Ne is the paines so great, but beare ye may;
For not so great as it was wont of yore,
It's now adayes, ne halfe so straight and sore.
They whylome vsed duly euery day
Their seruice and their holy things to say,
At noone and euen, besides their Anthemes sweet,
Their peny Masses, and their Complynes meet,
Their Diriges, their Trentals, and their shrifts,
Their memories, their singings, and their gifts.
Now all those needlesse works are laid away;
Now once a weeke vpon the Sabbath day,
It is enough to doe our small deuotion,
And then to follow any merry motion.
Ne are we tyde to fast, but when we list,
Ne to weare garments base of wollen twist,

But

But with the fineſt ſilks vs to aray,
That before God we may appeare more gay,
Reſembling *Aarons* glory in his place:
For farre vnfit it is, that perſon bace
Should with vile cloathes approach Gods maieſtie,
Whom no vncleannes may approachen nie:
Or that all men which any maſter ſerue,
Good garments for their ſeruice ſhould deſerue;
But he that ſerues the Lord of hoaſts moſt high,
And that in higheſt place, t'approach him nigh,
And all the peoples prayers to preſent
Before his throne, as on ambaſſage ſent
Both to and fro, ſhould not deſerue to weare
A garment better, than of wooll or haire.
Beſide, we may haue lying by our ſides
Our louely Laſſes, or bright ſhining Brides:
VVe be not tyde to wilfull chaſtitie,
But haue the Goſpell of free libertie.
By that he ended had his ghoſtly ſermon,
The Foxe was well induc'd to be a Parſon;
And of the Prieſt eftſoones gan to enquire,
How to a Benefice he might aſpire.
Marie there (ſaid the Prieſt) is art indeede.
Much good deepe learning one thereout may reed,
For, that the ground-worke is, and end of all,
How to obtaine a Beneficiall.
Firſt therefore, when ye haue in handſome wiſe
Your ſelfe attired, as you can deuiſe,
Then to ſome Noble man your ſelfe apply,
Or other great one in the worldes eye,
That hath a zealous diſpoſition
To God, and ſo to his religion:
There muſt thou faſhion eke a godly zeale,
Such as no carpers may contrayre reueale:
For, each thing fained ought more warie bee.
There thou muſt walke in ſober grauitee,
And ſeeme as Saint-like as Saint *Radegund*:
Faſt much, pray oft, looke lowely on the ground,
And vnto euery one doe curteſie meeke:
Theſe lookes (nought ſaying) doe a Benefice ſecke,
And be thou ſure one not to lack ere long.
But if thee liſt vnto the Court to throng,
And there to hunt after the hoped pray,
Then muſt thou thee diſpoſe another way:
For there thou needs muſt learne, to laugh, to lie,
To face, to forge, to ſcoffe, to companie,
To crouche, to pleaſe, to be a beetle ſtock
Of thy great Maſters will, to ſcorne, or mock:
So maiſt thou chaunce mock out a Benefice,
Vnleſſe thou canſt one coniure by deuice,
Or caſt a figure for a Biſhoprick:
And if one could, it were but a ſchoole-trick.
Theſe be the waies, by which without reward
Liuings in Court be gotten, though full hard.
For nothing there is done without a fee:
The Courtier needs muſt recompenced bee
With a Benevolence, or haue in gage
The *Primitias* of your Parſonage:
Scarce can a Biſhoprick forpas them by,
But that it muſt be gelt in priuitie.

Doe not thou therefore ſeeke a liuing there,
But of more priuate perſons ſeeke elſwhere,
Where-as thou maiſt compound a better penie,
Ne let thy learning queſtion'd be of any.
For ſome good Gentleman that hath the right
Vnto his Church for to preſent a wight,
Will cope with thee in reaſonable wiſe;
That if the liuing yeerely doe ariſe
To fortie pound, that then his yongeſt ſonne
Shall twenty haue, and twenty thou haſt wonne:
Thou haſt it wonne, for it is of franke gift,
And he will care for all the reſt to ſhift;
Both, that the Biſhop may admit of thee,
And that therein thou maiſt maintained bee.
This is the way for one that is vnlearn'd
Liuing to get, and not to be diſcern'd.
But they that are great Clerks, haue neerer wayes,
For learning ſake to liuing them to raiſe:
Yet many eke of them (God wote) are driuen,
T'accept a Benefice in peeces riuen.
How ſai'ſt thou (friend) haue I not well diſcourſt
Vpon this Common place (though plaine, not wourſt)?
Better a ſhort tale, then a bad long ſhriuing.
Needes any more to learne to get a liuing?
Now ſure and by my halidome (quoth he)
Ye a great maſter are in your degree:
Great thanks, I yeeld you for your diſcipline,
And doe not doubt, but duly to encline
My wits thereto, as ye ſhall ſhortly heare.
The Prieſt him wiſht good ſpeed, and well to fare.
So parted they, as eithers way them led.
But th'Ape and Foxe ere long ſo well them ſped,
Through the Prieſts wholſome counſell lately tought,
And through their owne faire handling wiſely wrought,
That they a Benefice twixt them obtained;
And crafty Reynold was a Prieſt ordained;
And th'Ape his Pariſh Clarke procur'd to bee.
Then made they reuell route and goodly glee.
But ere long time had paſſed, they ſo ill
Did order their affaires, that th'euill will
Of all their Pariſhners they had conſtrain'd;
Who to the Ordinarie of them complain'd,
How fouly they their offices abus'd,
And them of crimes and hereſies accus'd;
That Purſuants he often for them ſent:
But they neglecting his commaundement
So long perſiſted obſtinate and bold,
Till at the length he publiſhed to hold
A Viſitation, and them cyted thither:
Then was high time their wits about to gather;
VVhat did they then, but made a compoſition
With their next neighbour Prieſt for light condition,
To whom their liuing they reſigned quight
For a few pence, and ran away by night.
So paſſing through the Countrey in diſguize,
They fled far off, where none might them ſurprize,
And after that long ſtraied heere and there,
Through euery field and forreſt farre and nere;
Yet neuer found occaſion for their tourne,
But almoſt ſtern'd, did much lament and mourne.

At laſt, they chaunc't to meet vpon the way
The Mule, all deckt in goodly rich aray,
VVith bells and boſſes, that full lowdly rung,
And coſtly trappings, that to ground downe hung.
Lowly they him ſaluted in meeke wiſe:
But he through pride and fatnes gan deſpiſe
Their meanneſſe; ſcarce vouchſafte them to requite.
Whereat the Fox deepe groning in his ſprite,
Said, Ah! ſir Mule, now bleſſed be the day,
That I ſee you ſo goodly and ſo gay
In your attyres, and eke your ſilken hyde
Fill'd with round fleſh, that euery bone doth hide.
Seemes that in fruitfull paſtures you doe liue,
Or Fortune doth you ſecret fauour giue.
Foolish Fox (ſaid the Mule) thy wretched need
Praiſeth the thing that doth thy ſorrow breed.
For well I weene, thou canſt not but envie
My wealth, compar'd to thine owne miſery,
That art ſo leane and meagre waxen late,
That ſcarce thy legs vphold thy feeble gate.
Ay me (ſaid then the Fox) whom euill hap
Vnworthy in ſuch wretchednes doth wrap,
And makes the ſcorne of other beaſts to bee:
But read (faire Sir, of grace) from whence come yee?
Or what of tydings you abroad doe heare?
Newes may perhaps ſome good vnweeting beare.
From royall Court I lately came (ſaid he)
VVhere all the brauerie that eye may ſee,
And all the happineſſe that hart deſire,
Is to be found; he nothing can admire,
That hath not ſeene that heauens portracture:
But tydings there is none I you aſſure,
Saue that which common is, and knowne to all,
That Courtiers as the tyde doe riſe and fall.
But, tell vs (ſaid the Ape) we doe you pray,
Who now in Court doth beare the greateſt ſway.
That if ſuch fortune doe to vs befall,
VVe may ſeeke fauour of the beſt of all.
Marie (ſaid he) the higheſt now in grace,
Be the wilde beaſts, that ſwifteſt are in chaſe;
For in their ſpeedie courſe and nimble flight
The Lion now doth take the moſt delight:
But chiefelie, ioyes on foote them to behold,
Enchaſte with chaine and circulet of gold:
So wilde a beaſt ſo tame ytaught to bee,
And buxome to his bands is ioy to ſee.
So well his golden Circlet him beſeemeth:
But his late chaine his Liege vnmeet eſteemeth;
For ſo braue beaſts hee loueth beſt to ſee
In the wilde forreſt raunging freſh and free.
Therefore if fortune thee in Court to liue,
In caſe thou euer there wilt hope to thriue,
To ſome of theſe thou muſt thy ſelfe apply:
Elſe, as a thiſtle-downe in th'ayre doth flie,
So, vainelie ſhalt thou to and fro be toſt,
And loſe thy labour and thy fruitleſſe coſt.
And yet full few that follow them I ſee,
For vertues bare regard aduaunced bee,
But either for ſome gainefull benefit,
Or that they may for their owne turnes be fit.

Nath'leſſe, perhaps, ye things may handle ſo,
That ye may better thriue then thouſands mo.
But (ſaid the Ape) how ſhall we firſt come in,
That after we may fauour ſeeke to win?
How elſe (ſaid he) but with a good bold face,
And with big words, and with a ſtately pace,
That men may thinke of you in generall,
That to be in you, which is not at all:
For, not by that which is, the world now deemeth
(As it was wont) but by that ſame it ſeemeth.
Ne doe I doubt, but that ye well can faſhion
Your ſelues there-to, according to occaſion:
So fare ye well, good Courtiers may ye bee;
So proudly neighing, from them parted hee.
Then gan this craftie couple to deuize,
How for the Court themſelues they might aguize:
For thither they themſelues meant to addreſſe,
In hope to finde there happier ſucceſſe;
So well they ſhifted, that the Ape anon
Him ſelfe had clothed like a Gentleman,
And the ſlie Fox, as like to be his groome,
That to the Court in ſeemely ſort they come.
VVhere the fond Ape himſelfe vprearing hy
Vpon his tiptoes, ſtalketh ſtately by,
As if he were ſome great *Magnifico*,
And boldly doth amongſt the boldeſt go.
And his man Reynold with fine counterfeſaunce
Supports his credite and his countenaunce.
Then gan the Courtiers gaze on euery ſide,
And ſtare on him, with big lookes baſen wide,
Wondring what miſter wight he was, and whence:
For he was clad in ſtrange accouſtrements,
Faſhion'd with queint deuiſes neuer ſeene
In Court before, yet there all faſhions beene:
Yet he them in newfangleneſſe did paſs:
But his behauiour altogether was
Alla Turcheſca, much the more admyr'd,
And his lookes loftie, as if he aſpyr'd
To dignitie, and diſdeign'd the lowe degree;
That all which did ſuch ſtrangeneſſe in him ſee,
By ſecret meanes gan of his ſtate enquire,
And priuily his ſeruant thereto hire:
VVho, throughly arm'd againſt ſuch couerture,
Reported vnto all, that he was ſure
A noble Gentleman of high regard,
Which through the world had with long trauell far'd,
And ſeene the manners of all beaſts on ground;
Now heere arriu'd, to ſee if like he found.
Thus did the Ape at firſt him credit gaine,
Which afterwards he wiſely did maintaine
VVith gallant ſhowe, and daily more augment
Through his fine feats and Courtly complement;
For he could play, and daunce, and vaute, and ſpring,
And all that elſe pertaines to reuelling,
Onely through kindly aptnes of his ioynts.
Beſides, he could doe many other poynts,
The which in Court him ſerued to good ſtead:
For, he mongſt Ladies could their fortunes read
Out of their hands, and merie leaſings tell,
And iuggle finely, that became him well:

But

But he ſodlight was at legier-demaine,
That what he toucht, came not to light againe;
Yet would he laugh it out, and proudly looke,
And tell them, that they greatly him miſtooke.
So would he ſcoffe them out with mockerie,
For he therein had great felicitie;
And with ſharp quips ioy'd others to deface,
Thinking that their diſgracing did him grace:
So whilſt that other like vaine wits he pleaſed,
And made to laugh, his hart was greatly eaſed.
But the right gentle mind would bite his lip,
To heare the Iauell ſo good men to nip:
For though the vulgar yeeld an open eare,
And common Courtiers loue to gybe and fleare
At euery thing, which they heare ſpoken ill,
And the beſt ſpeeches with ill meaning ſpill;
Yet the braue Courtier, in whoſe beautious thought
Regard of honour harbours more than ought,
Doth loath ſuch baſe condition, to backbite
Anies good name for enuie or deſpite:
He ſtands on tearmes of honourable mind,
Ne will be carried with the common wind
Of Courts inconſtant mutabilitie,
Ne after euery tattling fable flie;
But heares, and ſees the follies of the reſt,
And thereof gathers for himſelfe the beſt:
He will not creepe, nor crouch with fained face,
But walks vpright with comely ſtedfaſt pace,
And vnto all doth yeeld due curteſie;
But not with kiſſed hand belowe the knee,
As that ſame Apiſh crue is wont to do:
For he diſdaines himſelfe t'embaſe there-to.
He hates foule leaſings, and vile flatterie,
Two filthy blots in noble Gentrie;
And lothefull idlenes he doth deteſt,
The canker-worme of euery gentle breſt:
The which to baniſh with faire exercile
Of knightly feates, he daily doth deuize:
Now menaging the mouthes of ſtubborne ſteedes,
Now practiſing the proofe of warlike deedes,
Now his bright armes aſſaying, now his ſpeare,
Now the nigh-aymed ring away to beare;
At other times he caſts to ſew the chace
Of ſwift wilde beaſts, or runne on foote a race,
T'enlarge his breath (large breath in armes moſt needful)
Or elſe by wreſtling to wex ſtrong and heedful,
Or his ſtiffe armes to ſtretch with Eughen bowe,
And manly legs, ſtill paſſing to and fro,
VVithout a gowned beaſt him faſt beſide;
A vaine enſample of the *Perſian* pride,
VVho after he had wonne th'*Aſſyrian* foe,
Did euer after ſcorne on foote to goe.
Thus when this Courtly Gentleman with toyle
Himſelfe hath wearied, he doth recoyle
Vnto his reſt, and there with ſweet delight
Of Muſicks skill reuiues his toyled ſpright;
Or elſe with Loues, and Ladies gentle ſports,
The ioy of youth, himſelfe he recomforts:
Or laſtly, when the body liſt to pauſe,
His minde vnto the Muſes he with-drawes;
Sweet Lady Muſes, Ladies of delight,
Delights of life, and ornaments of light:
With whom he cloſe conferes with wiſe diſcourſe,
Of Natures workes, of heauens continuall courſe,
Of forraine lands, of people different,
Of kingdoms change, of diuers gouernment,
Of dreadfull battailes, of renowned Knights;
With which he kindleth his ambitious ſprights
To like deſire and praiſe of noble fame,
The onely vp-ſhot where-to he doth aime:
For all his minde on honour fixed is,
To which he leuels all his purpoſes,
And in his Princes ſeruice ſpends his daies,
Not ſo much for to gaine, or for to raiſe
Himſelfe to high degree; as for his grace,
And in his liking to winne worthy place,
Through due deſerts and comely carriage,
In what-ſo pleaſe employ his perſonage,
That may be matter meet to gaine him praiſe;
For he is fit to vſe in all aſſayes,
Whether for Armes and warlike amenaunce,
Or elſe for wiſe and ciuill gouernaunce.
For he is practiz'd well in policie,
And there-to doth his courting moſt apply:
To learne the enterdeale of Princes ſtrange,
To marke th'intent of Counſells, and the change
Of ſtates, and eke of priuate men ſome-while,
Supplanted by fine falſhood and faire guile;
Of all the which he gathereth what is fit
T'enrich the ſtorehouſe of his powerfull wit,
Which through wiſe ſpeeches, and graue conference
He daily eekes, and brings to excellence.
Such is the rightfull Courtier in his kind:
But vnto ſuch the Ape lent not his mind;
Such were for him no fit companions,
Such would deſcry his lewd conditions:
But the young luſtie gallants he did chooſe
To follow, meet to whom he might diſcloſe
His witleſſe pleaſance, and ill-pleaſing vaine.
A thouſand wayes he them could entertaine,
With all the thriftleſſe games that may be found,
With mumming and with maſking all around,
VVith dice, with cards, with ballards far vnfit,
VVith ſhuttlecocks, miſſeeming manly wit,
VVith courtizans, and coſtly riotize,
VVhereof ſtill ſomewhat to his ſhare did rize:
Ne, them to pleaſure, would he ſometimes ſcorne
A Pandars coate (ſo baſely was he borne);
There-to he could full louingly verſes frame,
And play the Poet oft. But ah! for ſhame,
Let not ſweet Poets praiſe, whoſe onely pride
Is vertue to aduaunce, and vice deride,
Be with the worke of loſels wit defamed,
Ne let ſuch verſes Poetry be named;
Yet be the name on him would rightly take,
Maugre the ſacred Muſes, and it make
A ſeruaunt to the vile affection
Of ſuch, as he depended moſt vpon,
And with the lugry ſweet thereof allure
Chaſte ladies eares to fantaſies impure.

To

To ſuch delights the noble wits he led
Which him relieu'd, and their vaine humors fed
VVith fruitleſſe follies, and vnſound delights.
But if perhaps into their noble ſprights
Deſire of honour, or braue thought of armes
Did euer creepe, then with his wicked charmes
And ſtrong conceits he would it driue away,
Ne ſuffer it to houſe there halfe a day.
And when-ſo loue of letters did inſpire
Their gentle wits, and kindly wiſe deſire
That chiefly doth each noble mind adorne,
Then he would ſcoffe at learning, and eke ſcorne
The Sectaries thereof, as people baſe,
And ſimple men, which neuer came in place
Of worlds affaires, but in darke corners mewd,
Muttred of matters, as their bookes them ſhewd,
Ne other knowledge euer did attaine,
But with their gownes their grauitie maintaine.
From them he would his impudent lewd ſpeach
Againſt Gods holy Miniſters oft reach,
And mock Diuines and their profeſſion:
VVhat elſe then did he by progreſſion,
But mock high God himſelfe, whom they profeſſe?
But what car'd he for God or godlineſs?
All his care was himſelfe how to aduaunce,
And to vphold his courtly countenaunce
By all the cunning meanes he could deuiſe;
Were it by honeſt waies, or otherwiſe,
He made ſmall choice: yet ſure his honeſtie
Got him ſmall gaines, but ſhameleſſe flattery,
And filthy brocage, and vnſeemly ſhifts,
And borowe baſe, and ſome good Ladies gifts:
But the beſt help, which chiefely him ſuſtain'd,
Was his man Raynolds purchaſe which he gain'd.
For he was ſchool'd by kind in all the ſkill
Of cloſe conueyance, and each practiſe ill
Of cooſinage and cleanly knauerie,
Which oft maintain'd his maſters brauery.
Beſides, he vs'd another ſlippery ſlight,
In taking on himſelfe in common ſight,
Falſe perſonages, fit for euery ſted,
With which he thouſands cleanly cooſined:
Now like a Merchant, Merchants to deceaue,
With whom his credite he did often leaue
In gage, for his gay Maſters hopeleſſe dett:
Now like a Lawyer, when he land would lett,
Or ſell fee-ſimples in his Maſters name,
Which he had neuer, nor ought like the ſame:
Then would he be a Broker, and draw in
Both wares and money, by exchange to win:
Then would he ſeeme a Farmer, that would ſell,
Bargaines of woods, which he did lately fell,
Or corne, or cattle, or ſuch other ware,
There-by to cooſin men not well aware;
Of all the which there came a ſecret fee
To th'Ape, that he his countenaunce might bee.
Beſides all this, he vs'd oft to beguile
Poore ſuters, that in Court did haunt ſome while:
For he would learne their buſines ſecretly,
And then informe his Maſter haſtily,
That he by meanes might caſt them to prevent,
And beg the ſute the which the other ment.
Or otherwiſe, falſe Reynold would abuſe
The ſimple Suter, and wiſh him to chuſe
His Maſter, beeing one of great regard
In Court, to compas any ſute not hard,
In caſe his paines were recompenc't with reaſon:
So would he worke the ſilly man by treaſon
To buy his Maſters friuolous good will,
That had not power to doe him good or ill.
So pitifull a thing is Suters ſtate.
Moſt miſerable man, whom wicked fate
Hath brought to Court, to ſue for had-ywiſt,
That few haue found, and many one hath miſt;
Full little knoweſt thou that haſt not tride,
VVhat hell it is, in ſuing long to bide:
To looſe good dayes that might be better ſpent;
To waſte long nights in penſiue diſcontent:
To ſpeed to day, to be put back to morrow;
To feed on hope, to pine with feare and ſorrow;
To haue thy Princes grace, yet want her Peeres;
To haue thy asking, yet waite many yeeres;
To fret thy ſoule with croſſes and with cares;
To eate thy hart through comfortleſſe deſpaires;
To fawne, to crouche, to wait, to ride, to ronne;
To ſpend, to giue, to want, to be vndonne.
Vnhappy wight, borne to deſaſtrous end,
That doth his life in ſo long tendance ſpend.
Who euer leaues ſweet home, where meane eſtate
In ſafe aſſurance, without ſtrife or hate,
Findes all things needfull for contentment meeke;
And will to Court for ſhadowes vaine to ſeeke,
Or hope to gaine, himſelfe a daw will try:
That curſe God ſend vnto mine enemy.
For none but ſuch as this bold Ape vnbleſt,
Can euer thriue in that vnlucky queſt;
Or ſuch as hath a Reynold to his man,
That by his ſhifts his Maſter furniſh can.
But yet this Foxe could not ſo cloſely hide
His crafty feates, but that they were deſcride
At length, by ſuch as ſate in iuſtice ſeat,
VVho for the ſame him fouly did entreat;
And hauing worthily him puniſhed,
Out of the Court for euer baniſhed.
And new the Ape wanting his huckſter man,
That wont prouide his neceſſaries, gan
To growe into great lack, ne could vp-holde
His countenaunce in thoſe his garments olde;
Ne new ones could he eaſily prouide,
Though all men him vncaſed gan deride,
Like as a Puppit placed in a play,
Whoſe part once paſt, all men bid take away:
So that he driuen was to great diſtreſſe,
And ſhortly brought to hopeleſſe wretchedneſſe.
Then ſlyely as he might, he caſt to leaue
The Court, not asking any Pas or leaue;
But ran away in his rent rags by night,
Ne euer ſtayd in place, ne ſpake to wight,
Till that the Foxe his copeſmate he had found,
To whom complayning his vnhappy ſtound,

At last againe with him in trauell ioynd,
And with him far'd some better chaunce to finde.
So in the world long time they wandered,
And mickle want and hardneſſe ſuffered;
That them repented much ſo fooliſhly
To come ſo farre to ſeeke for miſery,
And leaue the ſweetnes of contented home,
Though eating hips, and drinking watry ſome.
Thus as they them complained to and fro,
VVhil'ſt through the foreſt rechleſſe they did goe,
Lo where they eſpide, how in a gloomy glade,
The Lion ſleeping lay in ſecret ſhade,
His Crowne and Scepter lying him beſide,
And hauing doft for heat his dreadfull hide:
VVhich when they ſawe, the Ape was ſore afraide,
And would haue fled with terror all diſmaide.
But him the Foxe with hardy words did ſtay,
And bad him put all cowardize away:
For now was time (if euer they would hope)
To ayme their counſels to the faireſt ſcope,
And them for euer highly to aduaunce,
In caſe the good which their owne happy chaunce
Them freely offred, they would wiſely take.
Scarce could the Ape yet ſpeake, ſo did he quake,
Yet as he could, he aſkt how good might growe,
Where nought but dread & death do ſeeme in ſhowe.
Now (ſaid he) whiles the Lion ſleepeth ſound,
May we his Crowne and Mace take from the ground,
And eke his skinne, the terror of the wood,
Where-with we may our ſelues (if we thinke good)
Make Kings of beaſts, and Lords of foreſts all,
Subiect vnto that powre imperiall.
Ah! but (ſaid th' Ape) who is ſo bold a wretch,
That dare his hardy hand to thoſe out-ſtretch;
VVhen as he knowes his meed, if he be eſpide,
To be a thouſand deathes, and ſhame beſide?
Fond Ape (ſaid then the Foxe) into whoſe breſt
Neuer crept thought of honour, nor braue geſt,
VVho will not venture life a King to bee,
And rather rule and raigne in ſoueraigne ſee,
Than dwell in duſt inglorious and bace,
Where none ſhall name the number of his place?
One ioyous houre in bliſfull happineſs,
I chuſe before a life of wretchednes.
Be therefore counſelled hereein by me,
And ſhake off this vile-harted cowardree.
If hee awake, yet is not death the next,
For we may coulor it with ſome pretext
Of this, or that, that may excuſe the crime:
Elſe we may flye; thou to a tree mayſt clime,
And I creepe vnder ground; both from his reach:
Therefore be rul'd to doo as I doe teach.
The Ape, that earſt did nought but chill and quake,
Now gan ſome courage vnto him to take,
And was content to attempt that enterpriſe,
Tickled with glory and rath couetiſe;
But firſt gan queſtion, whether ſhould aſſay
Thoſe royall ornaments to ſteale away.
Mary that ſhall your ſelfe (quoth he thereto)
For ye be fine and nimble it to doo;
Of all the beaſts which in the foreſts bee,
Is not a fitter for this turne than yee:
Therefore, mine owne deare brother take good hart,
And euer thinke a kingdome is your part.
Loath was the Ape (though praiſed) to aduenture,
Yet fainedly gan into his worke to enter,
Afraid of euery leafe that ſtirr'd him by,
And euery ſtick, that vnderneath did ly;
Vpon his tiptoes nicely he vp went,
For making noyſe, and ſtill his eare he lent
To euery ſound, that vnder heauen blew,
Now went, now ſtept, now crept, now backward drew,
That it good ſport had been him to haue eyde:
Yet at the laſt (ſo well he him applyde,)
Through his fine handling, and his cleanly play,
He all thoſe royall ſignes had ſtolne away,
And with the Foxes helpe them borne aſide,
Into a ſecret corner vneſpide.
VVhither when as they came, they fell at words,
VVhether of them ſhould be the Lord of Lords:
For the Ape was ſtryfull, and ambicious;
And the Foxe guilefull, and moſt couetous,
That neither pleaſed was, to haue the raine
Twixt them diuided into euen twaine,
But either (algates) would be Lord alone:
For Loue and Lordſhip bide no paragone.
I am moſt worthy (ſaid the Ape) ſith I
For it did put my life in ieopardy:
There-to I am in perſon and in ſtature
Moſt like a man, the Lord of euery creature,
So that it ſeemeth I was made to raigne,
And borne to be a kingly Soueraigne.
Nay (ſaid the Foxe) Sir Ape you are aſtray:
For though to ſteale the Diademe away
Were the worke of your nimble hand, yet I
Did firſt deuiſe the plot by policie;
So that it wholly ſpringeth from my wit:
For which alſo I claime my ſelfe more fit
Than you, to rule: for gouernment of ſtate
Will without wiſedome ſoone be ruinate.
And where you claime your ſelfe for outward ſhape
Moſt like a man, Man is not like an Ape
In his chiefe parts, that is, in wit and ſpirit;
But I therein moſt like to him doe merite
For my ſlie wyles and ſubtill craftineſſe,
The title of the kingdome to poſſeſſe.
Nath'leſſe (my brother) ſince we paſſed are
Vnto this poynt, we will appeale our iarre,
And I with reaſon meet will reſt content,
That ye ſhall haue both crowne and gouernment,
Vpon condition that ye ruled bee
In all affaires, and counſelled by mee;
And that ye let none other euer drawe
Your minde from mee, but keepe this as a lawe:
And hereupon an oath vnto me plight.
The Ape was glad to end the ſtrife ſo light,
And there-to ſwore: for who would not oft ſweare,
And oft vnſweare, a Diademe to beare?
Then freely vp thoſe royall ſpoyles hee tooke,
Yet at the Lions skin he inly quooke;

But

But it diſſembled, and vpon his head
The Crowne, and on his back the skin he did,
And the falſe Foxe him helped to array.
Then when he was all dight, he tooke his way
Into the forreſt, that he might be ſeene
Of the wilde beaſts in his new glory ſheene.
There the two firſt, whom he encountred, were
The Sheepe and th'Aſſe, who ſtriken both with feare
At ſight of him, gan faſt away to flye,
But vnto them the Foxe aloud did cry,
And in the Kings name bad them both to ſtay,
Vpon the paine that thereof follow may.
Hardly nath'leſſe were they reſtrained ſo,
Till that the Foxe forth toward them did go,
And there diſſwaded them from needleſſe feare,
For that the King did fauour to them beare;
And therefore dreadleſſe bad them come to Corte:
For no wilde beaſts ſhould doe them any torte
There or abroad, ne would his maieſtie
Vſe them but well, with gracious clemencie,
As whom he knew to him both faſt and true;
So he perſwaded them with homage due
Themſelues to humble to the Ape proſtrate,
VVho gently to them bowing in his gate,
Receiued them with chearfull entertaine.
Thence, forth proceeding with his princely traine,
He ſhortly met the Tygre, and the Bore,
Which with the ſimple Camell raged ſore
In bitter words, ſeeking to take occaſion,
Vpon his fleſhy corps to make invaſion:
But ſoone as they this mock-King did eſpy,
Their troublous ſtriſe they ſtinted by and by,
Thinking indeed that it the Lion was.
He then to proue whether his power would paſs
As currant, ſent the Foxe to them ſtraight way,
Commaunding them their cauſe of ſtrife bewray;
And if that wrong on either ſide there were,
That he ſhould warne the wronger to appeare
The morrow next at Court, it to defend;
In the meane time vpon the King t'attend.
The ſubtile Foxe ſo well his meſſage ſaid,
That the proud beaſts him readily obayd:
Whereby the Ape in wondrous ſtomack woxe,
Strongly encourag'd by the crafty Foxe;
That King indeed himſelfe he ſhortly thought,
And all the beaſts him feared as they ought:
And followed vnto his Palace hie,
Where taking Conge, each one by and by
Departed to his home in dreadfull awe,
Full of the feared ſight which late they ſawe.
The Ape thus ſeized of the Regall throne,
Eſſoones by counſell of the Foxe alone,
Gan to prouide for all things in aſſurance,
That ſo his rule might lenger haue endurance.
Firſt, to his Gate he pointed a ſtrong gard,
That none might enter but with iſſue hard:
Then for the ſafegard of his perſonage,
He did appoint a warlike equipage
Of forraine beaſts, not in the forreſt bred,
But part by land, and part by water fed;

For tyrannie is with ſtrange ayde ſupported.
Then vnto him all monſtrous beaſts reſorted
Bred of two kindes, as Griffons, Minotaures,
Crocodiles, Dragons, Beauers, and Centaures:
With thoſe himſelfe he ſtrengthned mightilie,
That feare he need no force of enemy.
Then gan he rule and tyrannize at will,
Like as the Foxe did guide his graceleſſe skill,
And all wilde beaſts made vaſſals of his pleaſures,
And with their ſpoyles enlarg'd his priuate treaſures.
No vaſe of iuſtice, nor no rule of reaſon,
No temperance, nor no regard of ſeaſon
Did thenceforth euer enter in his minde,
But crueltie, the ſigne of curriſh kinde,
And diſdeignfull pride, and wilfull arrogance;
Such followes thoſe whom fortune doth aduance.
But the falſe Fox moſt kindly plaid his part:
For, whatſoeuer mother wit, or arte
Could worke, he put in proofe: no practiſe flie,
No counterpoint of cunning policie,
No reach, no breach, that might him profit bring,
But he the ſame did to his purpoſe wring.
Nought ſuffered he the Ape to giue or graunt,
But through his hand muſt paſſe the Fiaunt.
All offices, all Leaſes by him lept,
And of them all what-ſo he likte, he kept.
Iuſtice he ſolde iniuſtice for to buy,
And for to purchaſe for his progeny.
Ill might it proſper, that ill gotten was:
But ſo he got it, little did he paſs.
He fed his cubs with fat of all the ſoyle,
And with the ſweet of others ſweating toyle,
He crammed them with crums of Benefices,
And fild their mouthes with meeds of malefices,
He cloathed them with all colours ſaue white,
And loaded them with Lordſhips and with might,
So much as they were able well to beare,
That with the weight their backs nigh broken were;
He chaffred Chayres in which Churchmen were ſet,
And breach of lawes to priuie ferme did let.
No ſtatute ſo eſtabliſhed might be,
Nor ordinaunce ſo needfull, but that he
VVould violate, though not with violence,
Yet vnder colour of the confidence
The which the Ape repos'd in him alone,
And reckned him the kingdoms corner-ſtone.
And euer when he ought would bring to paſs,
His long experience the platforme was:
And when he ought not pleaſing would put by,
The cloke was care of thrift, and husbandry,
For to encreaſe the common treaſures ſtore;
But his owne treaſure he encreaſed more,
And lifted vp his lofty towres therby,
That they began to threat the neighbour ſky;
The whiles the Princes Palaces fell faſt
To ruine: (for what thing can euer laſt?)
And whil'ſt the other Peeres for pouertie
VVere forc't their auncient houſes to let lie,
And their old Caſtles to the ground to fall,
VVhich their forefathers (famous ouer all)

Had founded for the Kingdoms ornament,
And for their memories long moniment.
But he no count made of Nobilitie,
Nor the wilde beasts whom armes did glorifie,
The Realmes chiefe strength & girlond of the Crowne:
All these through fained crimes he thrust adowne,
Or made them dwell in darknes of disgrace:
For none, but whom he list might come in place.
Of men of armes he had but small regard,
But kept them lowe, and streightned very hard.
For men of learning little he esteemed;
His wisedome he aboue their learning deemed.
As for the ratcall Commons least he cared;
For not so common was his bounty shared;
Let God (said he) if please, care for the many,
I for my selfe must care before else any:
So did he good to none, to many ill,
So did he all the kingdome rob and pill,
Yet none durst speak, nor none durst of him plaine;
So great he was in grace, and rich through gaine.
Ne would he any let to haue accesse
Vnto the Prince, but by his owne addresse:
For all that else did come, were sure to faile,
Yet would he further none but for availe.
For, on a time the Sheepe, to whom of yore
The Fox had promised of friendship store,
VVhat time the Ape the kingdome first did gaine,
Came to the Court, her case there to complaine,
How that the Wolfe her mortall enemy
Had sithence slaine her Lambe most cruelly;
And therefore crau'd to come vnto the King,
To let him knowe the order of the thing.
Soft gooddy Sheepe (then said the Foxe) not so:
Vnto the King so rash ye may not goe,
He is with greater matter busied,
Than a Lamb, or the Lambs owne mothers hed.
Ne certes may I take it well in part,
That ye my cousin Wolfe so fouly thwart,
And seeke with slaunder his good name to blot:
For there was cause, else doe it he would not.
Therefore surcease good Dame, and hence depart.
So went the Sheepe away with heauie hart.
So many moe, so euery one was vsed,
That to giue largely to the boxe refused.
Now when high *Ioue*, in whose almighty hand
The care of Kings, and power of Empires stand,
Sitting one day within his turret hie,
From whence he viewes with his black-lidded eye,
VVhat-so the heauen in his wide vawte containes,
And all that in the deepest earth remaines,
And troubled kingdome of wilde beasts beheld,
Whom not their kindly Souereigne did weld,
But an vsurping Ape with guile suborn'd,
Had all subuerst, he disdeignfully it scorn'd
In his great hart, and hardly did refraine,
But that with thunder-bolts he had him slaine,
And driuen downe to hell, his dewest meed:
But him auizing, he that dreadfull deed
Forbore, and rather chose with scornfull shame
Him to auenge, and blot his brutish name
Vnto the world, that neuer after any
Should of his race be voyd of infamy:
And his false counsellor, the cause of all,
To damne to death, or dole perpetuall,
From whence he neuer should be quit, nor stall'd.
Forth-with he *Mercurie* vnto him call'd,
And bad him flie with neuer-resting speed
Vnto the forrest, where wilde beasts doe breed,
And there enquiring priuily, to learne,
VVhat did of late chaunce to the Lion stearne,
That he rul'd not the Empire, as he ought;
And whence were all those plaints vnto him brought
Of wrongs and spoiles, by saluage beasts committed;
VVhich done, he bad the Lion be remitted
Into his seat, and those same treachours vile
Be punished for their presumptuous guile.
The sonne of *Maia* soone as he receiu'd
That word, straight with his azure wings he cleau'd
The liquid clowdes, and lucid firmament;
Ne staid, till that he came with steepe descent
Vnto the place, where his prescript did showe.
There stouping like an arrowe from a bowe,
He soft arriued on the grassie Plaine,
And fairely passed forth with easie paine,
Till that vnto the Palace nigh he came.
Then gan he to himselfe new shape to frame,
And that faire face, and that Ambrosiall hew,
Which wonts to deck the Gods immortall crew,
And beautifie the shinie firmament,
He doft, vnfit for that rude rabblement.
So standing by the gates in strange disguize,
He gan enquire of some in secret wize,
Both of the King, and of his gouernment,
And of the Foxe, and his false blandishment:
And euermore he heard each one complaine
Of foule abuses both in realme and raigne.
Which yet to proue more true, he meant to see,
And an eye-witnes of each thing to bee.
Tho, on his head his dreadfull hat he dight,
VVhich maketh him inuisible in sight,
And mocketh th'eyes of all the lookers on,
Making them thinke it but a vision.
Through power of that, hee runnes through enemies (swerds;
Through power of that, he passeth through the herds
Of rauenous wilde beasts, and doth beguile
Their greedie mouthes of the expected spoile;
Through power of that, his cunning theeueries
He wonts to worke, that none the same espies;
And through the power of that, he putteth on,
VVhat shape he list in apparition.
That on his head he wore: and in his hand
He tooke *Caduceus* his snakie wand,
With which the damned ghosts he gouerneth,
And furies rules, and Tartare tempereth.
VVith that he causeth sleepe to seize the eyes,
And feare the harts of all his enemies;
And when him list, an vniuersall night
Throughout the world he makes on euery wight;
As when his Sire with *Alcumena* lay.
Thus dight, into the Court he tooke his way,

Both

Both through the gard, which neuer him deſcride,
And through the watchmen, who him neuer ſpide:
Thence, forth he paſt into each ſecret part,
Whereas he ſawe (that ſorely grieu'd his hart)
Each place abounding with foule iniuries,
And hild with treaſure rackt with robberies:
Each place defilde with blood of guiltleſs beaſts,
Which had beene ſlaine to ſerue the Apes beheaſts;
Gluttony, malice, pride, and couetize,
And lawleſnes raigning with riotize;
Beſides the infinite extortions,
Done through the Foxes great oppreſſions,
That the complaints thereof could not be tolde.
VVhich when he did with lothfull eyes behold,
He would no more endure, but came his way,
And caſt to ſeeke the Lion where he may,
That he might worke the auengement for this ſhame,
On thoſe two caytiues, which had bred him blame.
And ſeeking all the forreſt buſily,
At laſt he fonnd, where ſleeping he did ly:
The wicked weed, which there the Foxe did lay,
From vnderneath his head he tooke away,
And then him waking, forced vp to rize.
The Lion looking vp, gan him avize,
As one late in a traunce, what had of long
Become of him: for fantaſie is ſtrong.
Ariſe (ſaid *Mercurie*) thou ſluggiſh beaſt,
That heere lieſt ſenſeleſſe, like the corpſe deceaſt,
The whil'ſt thy kingdome from thy head is rent,
And thy throne royall with dishonor blent:
Ariſe, and doe thy ſelfe redeeme from ſhame,
And be aveng'd on thoſe that breed thy blame.
There-at enraged, ſoone he gan vp-ſtart,
Grinding his teeth, and grating his great hart,
And rouzing vp himſelfe, for his rough hide
He gan to reach; but no where it eſpide.
There-with he gan full terribly to rore,
And chauſt at that indignity right ſore.
But when his Crowne and ſcepter both he wanted
Lord how he fum'd, and ſweld, and rag'd and panted;
And threatned death, and thouſand deadly dolours
To them that had purloyn'd his Princely honours!
With that in haſte, diſroabed as he was,
He toward his owne Palace forth did paſs;
And all the way he roared as he went,
That all the forreſt with aſtoniſhment
Thereof did tremble, and the beaſts therein
Fled faſt away from that ſo dreadfull din.
At laſt, he came vnto his manſion,
Where all the gates he found faſt lockt anon,
And many warders round about them ſtood.
With that he roar'd aloud, as he were wood,
That all the Palace quaked at the ſtound,
As if it quite were riuen from the ground,
And all within were dead and hartleſſe left;
And th'Ape himſelfe, as one whoſe wits were reft,
Fled heere and there, and euery corner ſought,
To hide himſelfe from his owne feared thought.
But the falſe Fox, when he the Lion heard,
Fled cloſely forth ſtraight-way of death afeard,
And to the Lion came full lowly creeping,
With fained face, and watry eyne halfe weeping,
T'excuſe his former treaſon and abuſion,
And turning all vnto the Apes confuſion:
Nath'leſſe, the royall Beaſt forbore beleeuing,
But bad him ſtay at eaſe till further preeuing.
Then when he ſawe no entrance to him graunted,
Roaring yet lowder that all harts it daunted,
Vpon thoſe gates with force he fiercely ſlewe,
And rending them in peeces, felly ſlewe
Thoſe warders ſtrange, and all that elſe he met.
But th'Ape ſtill flying, he no where might get:
From roume to roume, from beame to beame he fled
All breathleſſe, and for feare now almoſt ded:
Yet hrought laſt the Lion ſpide, and caught,
And forth with ſhame vnto his iudgement brought.
Then all the beaſts he caus'd aſſembled bee,
To heare their doome, and ſad enſample ſee.
The Foxe, firſt Author of that treacherie,
He diſvncaſe, and then abroad let flie.
But th'Apes long taile (which then he had) he quight
Cut off, and both eares pared of their hight;
Since which, all Apes but halfe their eares haue left,
And of their tailes are vtterly bereft.
So Mother *Hubberd* her diſcourſe did end:
VVhich pardon me, if I amiſſe haue pend;
For, weake was my remembrance it to hold,
And bad her tongue that it ſo bluntly told.

away

FINIS.

THE SHEPHEARDS CALENDER:

CONTAINING
TVVELVE ÆGLOGVES, PROPORTIONABLE TO THE TWELVE MONETHS.

ENTITVLED,
To the Noble and vertuous Gentleman, moſt *worthy of all titles, both of learning and chiualrie, Maſter* Philip Sidney.

AT LONDON,
Printed by *H. L.* for *Mathew Lownes*, and are to *be ſold at the ſigne of the Biſhops head in* Paules Church-yard. 1611.